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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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With concurrence of: \_\_\_\_\_

IPS by W obtained \_\_\_\_\_ not obt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 12-15-16

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRS. CARTER  
FROM: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI  
SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Argentine Nobel Peace Prize Winner (C)

I understand that you will be meeting with Argentine Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel. In 1973, Perez Esquivel, a sculptor and Professor of Architecture, established the Ecumenical Movement of Peace and Justice, an organization of Catholics, Protestants and others opposed to violence by both right-wing and left-wing political forces in Argentina. In 1974, he became Secretary General of the Peace and Justice Service, a Buenos Aires-based network of human rights activists throughout Latin America. (C)

He has been very complimentary of the President's human rights policy, and of our former Ambassador to Argentina, Raul Castro, but as the attached UPI report indicates, he said that he was "gravely concerned" about the human rights movement because of Reagan's election. The Argentine government is unhappy that he received the Nobel Peace Prize, and the government has suggested indirectly that he may have contributed to terrorism. Our Embassy is aware of no information that would substantiate the charge. Indeed, he is a strong advocate of Gandhian non-violence. (C)

Perez Esquivel has also criticized military aid to the Junta in El Salvador, and there is some question about whether he cares as much about condemning left-wing terrorism as he does about government repression and right-wing terrorism. The President alluded indirectly to the point in his speech to the OAS on Wednesday, where he said: (C)

"The cause of human rights will be all the stronger if it remains at the service of humanity rather than at the service of ideological or partisan ends -- and if it condemns both terrorism and repression." (U)

I suggest you make the following points:

-- The President and I both wanted to personally congratulate you for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (U)

-- As you know, the President has placed great emphasis on the importance of human rights for the U.S. and the world. Your award is symbolic of the importance which the entire world attaches to human rights today. (U)

Review on 11/19/86

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-- We believe very deeply that for the human rights movement to remain strong it must be credible and to do it has to be perceived as separate from ideological or partisan political groups. We must support a free and just political process but not a political group. We must seek balance in our compliments and in our criticism; we should condemn the terrorism of the left as strongly as the repression of the right. If we fail to maintain that balance, we will fall victim to one side or the other. And the cause of human rights will suffer. (U)

-- I have heard that you may visit El Salvador. As the President said, we have supported the Junta in its effort to implement fundamental reforms and to resist efforts by the right to restore an old tyranny and of the left to create a new one. We have tried to use our aid -- both economic and non-lethal military aid -- to encourage the Junta to curb human rights abuses. Bob Pastor is prepared to discuss the situation there at greater length if you so desire. (U)

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The NSC has waived their classification equity for information within this White House/NSC document.

Your agency has been determined to be the agency of primary interest.

Please review for your agency's equities and obtain any necessary concurrences.

